UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/872
S/1996/85
6 February 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 28
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 31 January 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the enormous efforts that Italy has made in support of past and present operations carried out by the international community to restore peace and stability in the former Yugoslavia. My country has thus far deployed thousands of men and has paid a heavy tribute in blood (10 dead and 7 wounded).

This commitment, as the annexes show, has resulted in an extraordinary financial burden, amounting to more than $500 million (12 months of the Implementation Force (IFOR) operation included). This sum is drawn exclusively from the national budget, since no reimbursement is expected from the United Nations.

Italy's contribution demonstrates the significant and often silent role that it has played and continues to play in favour of the United Nations, particularly in the former Yugoslavia.

The reason I am writing is not only to provide this information but also by way of example and incentive to other States. I would be very grateful if the present letter and its annexes would be circulated as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 28, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX I

Italy's engagement in the former Yugoslavia until the Dayton agreements

1. Maritime surveillance

Italy has taken part since 16 July 1992 in the Western European Union (WEU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) surveillance operations at sea (respectively "Operation Sharp Vigilance" and "Operation Maritime Monitors") for the enforcement of Security Council resolutions 713 (1991) and 757 (1992), and since 16 July 1993 in the NATO/WEU joint operation "Sharp Guard" for the enforcement of the embargo and naval blockade of the Montenegro harbours, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 787 (1992) and 820 (1993). Three Italian ships have been deployed continuously.

Statistical data on embargo activities carried out to date are as follows:

Units questioned	61 011
Units inspected	6 019
Units rerouted	1 426

The total cost of the operation thus far amounts to approximately $130 million.

2. Waterways surveillance

The WEU monitoring operation "Enforcement Danube" has been in place since 18 June 1993 to enforce the United Nations embargo on the Danube river. The Italian participation consists of 64 men and 2 motor patrol boats.

The Italian customs police inspected 2,070 convoys, carrying out 3,238 missions.

3. Air surveillance

(a) Participation in operation "Sharp Guard"

Italy provided additional support for this operation until 16 October 1995, making available eight Tornado aircraft, two maritime patrol aircraft and one HH3F helicopter for rescue, to protect the Task Group operating along the coast of Montenegro.

The cost of the operation has been approximately $88 million.

(b) Operation "Deny Flight"

Italy has made available 14 airports: Aviano, Rivolto, Istrana, Vicenza, Villafranca, Ghedi, Malpensa, Cervia, Pisa, Gioia del Colle, Brindisi, Sigonella, Palermo and Trapani.

Moreover, Italy granted the use of three training areas: Maniago, Cellina Maduna and Punta della Contessa.

Since August 1995, in the framework of possible air strikes and close air support operations in assistance to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the Rapid Reaction Forces, Italy made available to NATO 14 fighter bombers, 4 transport aircraft and 1 replenishment aircraft.

The cost of the operation has been about $60 million.

4. European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM)

Italian commitments began in July 1992 with the following contribution: 32 officers, 21 non-commissioned officers and 4 motor vehicles.

In the past Italy has deployed up to 80 men, 50 vehicles and 4 helicopters.

The cost of the operation has thus far amounted to $18 million.

5. Unified Police Force in Mostar (UPFM)

A unified police force, comprising Croats, Muslims and a component of WEU police, has been operating at Mostar since 23 July 1994. Italy participates in the force with 20 Carabinieri (3 officers, 14 non-commissioned officers, 1 corporal and 2 privates).

The estimated cost of the operation (from 9 March 1995 to 22 July 1996) is $2.7 million.

6. Humanitarian aids

Italy has made available land, maritime and air carriers in order to assist the people of the former Yugoslavia.

The Italian armed forces provided airlifts from Ancona and Pisa to Sarajevo and Belgrade.

The cost of the operation has thus far amounted to approximately $11 million.

ANNEX II

Italian contribution to the Implementation Force

1. Forces assigned to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

(a) Land forces

1 mechanized brigade:

- Mechanized regiment
- Artillery battalion
- Special forces unit
- Armoured company
- Support unit
- Logistic unit

(b) Naval forces

4 frigates

4 minesweepers and 1 command ship

2 landing ships

2 coastal transport ships

1 oceangoing tug

(c) Air forces

14 tactical aircraft (8 Tornado and 6 AMX)

5 transport aircraft (1 C130 and 4 G222)

2 maritime patrol aircraft

1 replenishment aircraft

(d) Theatre reserve

600 marines and 2 landing ships

2. Logistics support

In addition to the forces made available to IFOR, the following national bases have been made available to the Allied Forces:

(a) Twenty-one military and civilian airports for the deployment of a maximum of 250 aircraft (Aviano, Istrana, Ghedi, Piacenza, Cervia, Grosseto, Gioia del Colle, Amendola, Grazzanise, Sigonella, Treviso, Vicenza, Verona-Villafranca, Rimini, Pisa, Napoli, Brindisi, Trapani, Cagliari, Genova and Ronchi dei Legionari);

(b) Nine ports or naval bases (Trieste, Venezia, Monfalcone, Ancona, Bari, Brindisi, Taranto, Messina and Augusta);

(c) A multinational logistic base, located in north-east Italy, made of 14 army barracks, capable of supporting external forces up to 3,000 men and 1,000 vehicles;

(d) A forward logistic site (comprising Ancona harbour and Falconara airport), which provides logistic support to the naval forces in the Adriatic sea;

(e) San Vito dei Normanni base as a transit area capable of supporting 1,200 men.

A breakdown of Italian military personnel involved in the operation is as follows:

Land components on the ground	2 500
Maritime components	2 500
Theatre reserve force	600
Air components	650
Logistic support	4 700
Total (approximate)	11 000

3. Additional commitments:

(a) Thousands of police, customs officers and communication operators are deployed for the security and control of allied forces and air/naval bases. The Italian air defence system and air traffic control are also heavily involved.

(b) The existing United Nations bases in Italy (Brindisi and Pisa) are of fundamental importance for any United Nations activity in the former Yugoslavia.

4. The overall financial burden of the Italian contribution to the operations in the area amounts to about $220 million for 12 months.